

A CRAGMOR CHRONOLOGY

1900-1964

Events, Buildings, and Curiosities

- 1900 S. Edwin Solly initiates local campaign to propagate ideas for the founding of a major tubercular care center.
- 1901 Sept. Solly appeals to General William J. Palmer for support.
- Dec. Austin's Bluffs Park is donated to the city.
- 1902 Jan. Palmer announces his offer of 100 acres for sanatorium site and \$50,000 to start a building fund.
- Mar. Sanatorium trustees chosen. Public contributions solicited for building fund.
- Mar. 28 The new site officially named "Cragmoor." Solly is named physician-in-chief of the institution.
- Apr. Austin's Bluffs Park is renamed Palmer Park. Colorado Springs' population is 35,500.
- 1903 Feb. Architect Thomas MacLaren completes preliminary plans for the "Sun Palace", equipped to care for 150 patients. First cost estimate \$200,000.
- Mar. 7 MacLaren's plans for the Central Building made public.
- Dec. Architect MacLaren completes plans for the Central Building. Cost estimate \$100,000.
- 1904 Jan. Construction plans modified, cost estimate drastically reduced.
- June 20 The Cragmor Sanatorium officially opens under the direction of S. Edwin Solly. It consists

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- of three large pavilions and several small cottages, with accommodations for 25 patients. Final construction cost about \$30,000.
- 1906 Nov. 19 Dr. Solly dies. Cragmor closes for six months.
- 1907 May Major improvements to cottages and grounds following winter of vandalism and neglect.
- June 1 Cragmor reopens, directed by Drs. Charles Fox Gardiner, Henry W. Hoagland, and Will H. Swan
- 1909 Mar. 13 General William J. Palmer dies.
- Oct-Nov. U.S. National Tuberculosis Exhibit held in Colorado Springs.
- 1910 June 20 Dr. Alexius M. Forster buys The Cragmor Sanatorium for approximately \$50,000.
- 1911 Sept. Architect George Edward Barton begins elaborate plans for "the most novel sanatorium in the world."
- Oct. 6 Architect Barton submits his plans for the Central Building. Modeled after ancient Pueblo Indian construction. Cost estimate \$500,000.
- 1913 Jan 3 Articles of incorporation filed with a capitalization of \$450,000. Cragmor's Board of Directors formed.
- 1914 Feb. Bids sought for new two-story addition to proposed building. Cost estimate \$35,000, including a new heating plant.
- Mar. 23 Bids invited for a new wing to provide twenty additional rooms.

- Oct. 4 Central Building completed. A three-story structure of Spanish design. Cost: \$80,000. Patient capacity increased to sixty.
- 1915 Jan. Cragmor enlarges plant with addition of livery, women's dormitory, and new cottages.
- 1918 Nov. 11 End of World War I.
- 1919 Aug. New three-story addition to Central Building approved. Cost estimate \$80,000.
- 1920 Feb. 20 Construction begins to add on fourth floor to Central Building, increasing patient capacity to 105.
- 1920-23 Eight cottages erected in Cragmor Village.
- 1923 Oct. Forster announces plans to build extensive cottage colony and industrial center.
- Nov. Cragmor Village incorporated. The Cragmor Library opens in the central pavilion.
- 1924 The Cragmor declared "the most desirable sanatorium in the world" by the National Tuberculosis Association.
- May The Colorado Foundation for Research in Tuberculosis is organized. Dr. Gerald B. Webb named research director.
- June Additions to Central Building include barber shop, beauty salon, and post office.
- July 2 Launching of The Cragmor News, renamed Ninety-Eight-Six with the second issue, an aristocratic bi-weekly periodical supported by local contributions.
- mid-July Opening of clock golf green and botanical gardens on Cragmor grounds.
- Nov. Four new cottages in Cragmor Village completed.

- 1925 May 3 Cragmor's journal pronounced "the most elaborate and artistic publication of the Pikes Peak region."
- June Archway of trees and vine arbors added to main walkway area.
- 1926 Feb. The Cragmor Library, boasting 811 volumes, moves to the third floor of Central Building.
- June 1 Half-Way House, a curative workshop, opens in Colorado Springs, offering occupational therapy to convalescing Cragmorites.
- July The population of Colorado Springs reaches 36,728.
- Sept. Combination drug and grocery store opens in Central Building.
- 1927 Jan. 30 Construction begins on new cottage in Cragmor Village. This brings to nineteen the total of such structures in the Village.
- April Construction begins on twenty-one room, two-story addition southeast of Central Building.
- July 24 New building opens, bringing the Sanatorium's capacity to 185, plus fifty more in the Village. Cragmor now recognized as the largest privately operated sanatorium in the world.
- 1928 Jan. First employee vaudeville show: "The Cragmor Frolics".
- June Construction of new smaller units brings The Cragmor's physical plant to two large buildings, three pavilions, four cottages, and nine individual cabins on the Sanatorium grounds and twenty housekeeping cottages in the Village colony.

- Aug. First "talkies" added to Cragmor's weekly film showings.
- 1929 There are 10,389 known cases of TB in Colorado, 54% of which are residents of the state. One death occurs in every eight cases.
- Aug. Construction approved for Nurses' Home, a \$60,000 structure to be located on the bluff behind the Central Building.
- Sept. 30 Last classical recital at The Cragmor.
- Oct. 24 First news of the stock market crash.
- 1930 Feb. Cabin Row closed due to sharp decrease in patients.
- July 27 Nurses' Home dedicated.
- 1930-31 Cragmor sorely hit by the Depression and general financial upheaval.
- 1931 Mason C. Davidæ Fund established, providing automatic funds for patients needing financial assistance. Nurses' Home condemned due to foundation slippage and cracking.
- May Cragmor and three medics sued for \$154,500.
- 1932 Feb. 25 Final issue of institutional periodical, Ninety-Eight-Six. Weekly motion pictures discontinued.
- 1932-35 Cragmor experiences continuing financial slump.
- 1935 Nov. 24 Bankruptcy declared. Foreclosure proceedings begin.
- 1936 Feb. 13 Cragmor reconveys and incorporates as a non-profit sanatorium, thus removing its indebtedness and allowing for acceptance of inheritances, gifts, and endowments.
- The physical plant now consists of the Central

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- Building, an abandoned Nurses' Home, two eight-room cottages, one 24-room edifice, ten cabins, and twenty cottages in the Village.
- Mar. 31 First meeting of the Cragmor Foundation, Inc.
- 1941 Dec. 7 The Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor.
- 1941-1947 Period of clandestine abortions performed at The Cragmor.
- 1942 Nov. The Nurses' Home and Power Plant, long unused, are razed to provide materials needed in the war effort.
- 1943 Apr. 19 Contract signed to treat syphilitic and tubercular trainmen from Cleveland, Ohio.
- 1947 Dr. Otto Einstein begins 12-year tenure as Cragmor house physician.
- Feb. Arrival of fifty consumptive veterans from Fitzsimons Hospital, Denver.
- 1949 March Dr. George T. Dwire assumes management of The Cragmor.
- 1950 June Cragmor population reduced to 35 patients.
- 1952 Nov. U.S. Government designates The Cragmor as one of fifteen contract hospitals to administer to medical needs of Navajo Indian patients.
- 1954 Mar. 23 Dr. Alexius M. Forster dies at age 73.
- 1955 Dec. The Cragmor Foundation's assets exceed \$400,000.
- 1958 Mar. Construction plans approved for nursing home, to be called "Cragmor Manor."
- 1961 June Public Health Service withdraws Indian contract and all financial support.

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- 1962 George Dwire obliged to suspend the Sanatorium's operation.
- Apr. Last of Cragmor's senior citizens depart the new nursing home. The Cragmor declared defunct.
- 1964 June Governor John Love authorizes the University of Colorado to acquire the Cragmor property.

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